

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11575 281201Z

56

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 029799

R 281128Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6502

S E C R E T CAIRO 11575

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, LY

SUBJ: EGYPT AIR HIJACKING

REF: CAIRO 11545 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN ADDITION DMI GENERAL SHAWKAT'S COMMENTS REPORTED PARA 5 REFTEL, SHAWKAT TOLD B/G SVENDSEN THAT EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN ASTONISHED TO FIND THAT THE TWO PISTOLS USED BY THE HIJACKERS WERE FOR BLANKS ONLY. THIS APPARENTLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE FACT THAT, DESPITE MUCH FIRING, THERE WERE NO BULLET HOLES IN THE AIRCRAFT FRAME. (HOWEVER, ONE OF THE STEWARDESSES WAS REPORTEDLY SLIGHTLY WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE, WHICH PROBABLY CAME FROM EGYPTIAN COMMANDOS.) SHAWKAT STRESSED VERY FEW PEOPLE IN GOE KNOW THIS. EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ARE WITHHOLDING THIS INFORMATION FROM THE JUDGE, THE COMMANDOS WHO STORMED THE PLANE AND ALL OTHERS.

2. SHAWKAT ALSO SAID THE TWO PALESTINIANS INVOLVED IN THE HIJACKING HAD BEEN DESTITUTE. THEY HAD COME FROM KUWAIT WITH 2,000 KUWAITI DINARS, BUT THEIR MONEY HAD RUN OUT. THEY THEREUPON PERSUADED THEIR EGYPTIAN HOST TO PARTICIPATE, ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN NOW CLAIMS THAT HE THOUGHT HE WAS ACCOMPANYING THEM TO KUWAIT WHERE THEY HOPED TO OBTAIN SOME MORE FUNDS. HE PROFESSED TO BE SURPRISED ON LEARNING THAT THE AIRCRAFT HE AND HIS COMPANIONS HAD BOARDED WAS BOUND FOR LUXOR, AND THAT PALESTINIANS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY A TRANSIT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 11575 281201Z

STOP EN ROUTE TO KUWAIT. EGYPTIAN WAS APPARENTLY THE

HIJACKER STATIONED AT THE BACK OF THE PLANE.

3. BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY ABOVE INFORMATION AS FAR AS
GOE IS CONCERNED, IT IS BEING SENT NODIS.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN MUCH SPECULATION, ESPECIALLY
AMONG MILITARY ATTACHE CORPS, THAT THE HIJACKING WAS STAGED
BY THE EGYPTIANS. BLANK PISTOLS, IF THIS FACT BECOMES
WIDELY KNOWN, WILL CERTAINLY FUEL SUCH A CONCLUSION.
THUS FAR, TOO, THE THREE HIJACKERS HAVE NOT APPEARED
IN PUBLIC, AS PROMISED EARLIER, EVEN THOUGH WE HEAR THEY
WERE RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL IN ONE DAY. HOWEVER, EGYPTIAN
TV HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE CONFESSIONS OF THE THREE HIJACKERS
WILL BE SHOWN LATER TODAY.

5. EGYPTIANS ARE CERTAINLY FULLY CAPABLE OF STAGING SUCH
AN INCIDENT, ESPECIALLY TO IMPLICATE QADHAFI, BUT ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED WE DOUBT THAT THIS ONE WAS STAGED. LIBYAN
INVOLVEMENT, DESPITE GOE'S PLAYING UP THIS ASPECT, IS A
BIT SLIM. COMMANDO OPERATION WAS VERY MUCH FOR REAL.
AND MOST OF AMERICAN PASSENGERS ABOARD HIJACKED PLANE
TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ARE CONVINCED IT WAS THE REAL
THING. HIJACKERS WERE STABBED AND WOUNDED AS WAS A
STEWARDESS AND ONE OF PLANE CREW. WHILE THE AFFAIR MAY
NOT HAVE BEEN QUITE AS HEROIC AS EGYPTIANS MAKE IT OUT TO
BE, IT COULD HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS. HIJACKERS WERE OBVIOUSLY
RANK AMATEURS, WHO--FORTUNATELY FOR ALL-- BUNGLED BADLY FROM
BEGINNING TO END.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, CAT-B, INVESTIGATIONS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO11575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850107-1666, N760006-0521
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760810/aaaaaier.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 11545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ElyME>; RELEASED <27 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <05 JUL 2005 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT AIR HIJACKING
TAGS: EAIR, PINT, PFOR, EG, LY, EGYPT AIR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006